(c) Yes.

(d) and (e) Government has consistently drawn the attention of the United States and other countries to the need for proper benchmarks and accountability to prevent the diversion of assistance provided to Pakistan for use in its military build up against India. Government has also stressed the need for constant vigilance as also close monitoring of such assistance being provided.

**Visit of Bangladesh's Minister to Meghalaya**

2354. SHRI THOMAS SANGMA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether recently, a Bangladesh State Minister for Cultural Affairs visited the State of Meghalaya to attend a cultural festival in the State;

(b) whether due courtesy and usual protocol were not extended to that Bangladesh Minister like, treating him as State Guest, giving him Guard of Honour, etc.;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and whether the State Government of Meghalaya has tendered an apology to that Minister; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S. M. KRISHNA): (a) Yes.

(b) Due courtesies and protocol were provided to him such as transport, security and place of stay by Government of Meghalaya.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

**RPO at Rajkot**

2355. SHRI VIJAYKUMAR RUPANI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that Saurashtra has demanded regional passport office at Rajkot;

(b) whether there is any proposal to establish regional passport office at Rajkot;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SHASHI THAROOR): (a) Yes.

(b) to (d) The Government is committed to improve the Passport Issuance System as a whole, and has accordingly started implementing the Passport Seva Project (PSP) under which Passport Seva Kendras (PSKs) are being established throughout the country with the objective to deliver passport related services to the citizens in a timely, reliable, more transparent and accessible manner. The National Institute of Smart Governance had recommended the location of the Passport Seva Kendras (PSKs) on the basis of a study conducted by them on the number

of passport applications received from various districts under each Passport Office. One of the proposed PSKs under PSP, will be opened at Rajkot. Details of the proposed 77 PSKs is given in the Statement (*See* below). M/s Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) have been appointed as Service Provider. There has been delay due to the defects in the software which were detected during the testing by the Standards, Testing and Quality Certification (STQC), an organization under the Department of Information Technology, appointed as third party auditor. New dates proposed by TCS for launch of the project at pilot centres will be known only after the 4th cycle of testing by STQC.

***Statement***

*Passport Seva Kendra (PSK)*

*Distribution of proposed PSKs*

| Passport Office | PSKs at existing Passport Office locations | Proposed PSKs at new locations | Total No. of PSKs |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| | **PSKs to be Newly Setup** | | |
| Delhi | Delhi 1, Delhi 2 | Gurgaon | 3 |
| Mumbai | Mumbai 2, Mumbai 3 | None | 3 |
| Hyderabad | Hyd 1, Hyd 2, Hyd 3 | Vijayawada, Nizambad, Tirupathi | 6 |
| Chennai | Chennai 1, Chennai 2, Chennai 3 | None | 3 |
| Bangalore | B'lore 1, B'lore 2 | Hubhi-Dharwad, Mangalore | 4 |
| Ahmedabad | Ahmedabad 1, Ahmedabad 2 | Baroda, Rajkot | 4 |
| Cochin | Cochin | Thrissur, Alappuzha, Ernakulam, Rural, Kottayam | 5 |
| Jalandhar | Jalandhar 1, Jalandhar 2 | Hoshiarpur | 3 |
| Trivandrum | Trivandrum | Kollam, Trivandrum rural | 3 |
| Chandigarh | Chandigarh | Ludhiana, Ambala | 3 |
| Trichy | Trichy 1, Trichy 2 | Thanajavur | 3 |
| Kolkata | Kolkata | Bahrampur | 2 |
| Lucknow | Lucknow | Varanasi, Kanpur, Gorakhpur | 4 |
| Jaipur | Jaipur | Jodhpur, Sikar | 3 |
| Kozhikode | Kozhikode 1, Kozhikode 2 | Kannur 1, Kannur 2 | 4 |
| Thane | Thane | Nasik | 2 |
| Pune | Pune | None | 1 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Patna | Patna | None | 1 |
| Visakhapatnam | Visakhapatnam | None | 1 |
| Surat | Surat | None | 1 |
| Bhopal | Bhopal | None | 1 |
| Ghaziabad | Ghaziabad | None | 1 |
| Bareilly | Bareilly | None | 1 |
| Malappuram | Malappuram | None | 1 |
| Nagpur | Nagpur | None | 1 |
| Amritsar | Amritsar | None | 1 |
| Guwahati | Guwahati | None | 1 |
| Madurai | Madurai | Tirunelveli City | 2 |
| TOTAL | | | 68 |
| | **PSKs co-located with Passport Offices** | | |
| Bhubaneswar | Bhubaneswar | None | 1 |
| Ranchi | Ranchi | None | 1 |
| Coimbatore | Coimbatore | None | 1 |
| Panaji | Panaji | None | 1 |
| Jammu | Jammu | None | 1 |
| Srinagar | Srinagar | None | 1 |
| Shimla | Shimla | None | 1 |
| Raipur | Raipur | None | 1 |
| Dehradum | Dehradum | None | 1 |
| TOTAL | | | 9 |
| TOTAL Offices | | | 77 |

**Rehabilitation of internally displaced Tamils of Sri Lanka**

2356. DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the memorandum, presented by the MPs, who visited Sri Lanka, to the Hon'ble Prime Minister is under consideration on the further strengthening the rehabilitation of internally displaced Tamils;